



Established 1858

TATTERSALL'S CLUB *Magazine*

THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF
TATTERSALL'S CLUB, SYDNEY

OCTOBER - - - 1954

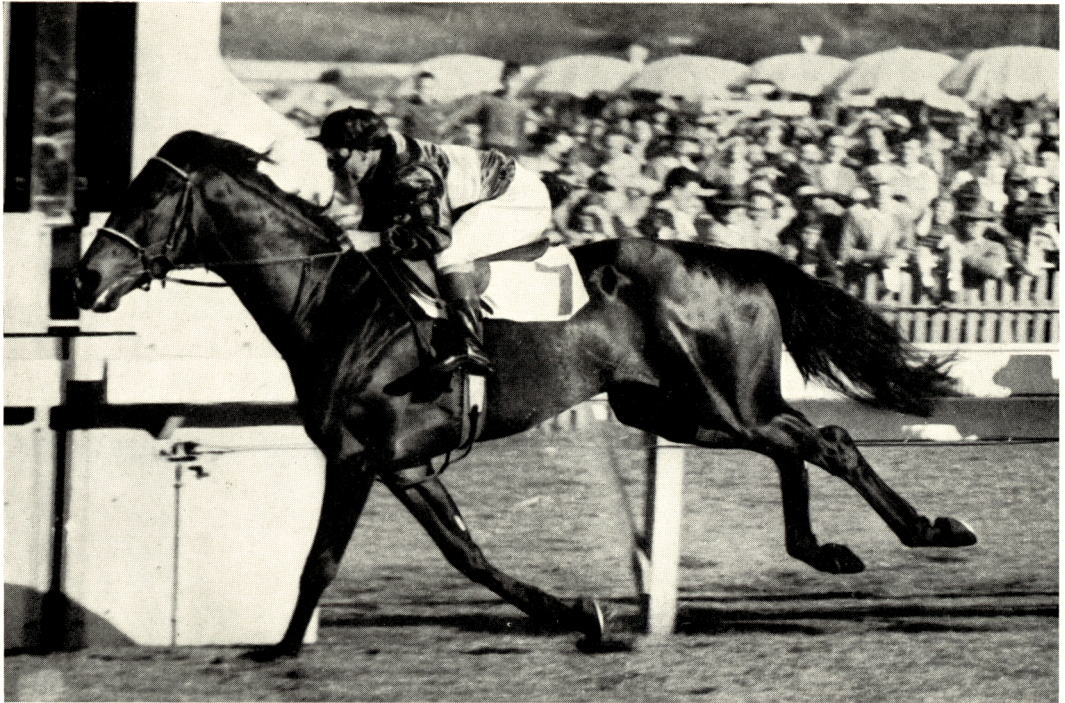
Vol. 27 No. 8

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PICTURE OF THE MONTH



1954 Chelmsford Stakes Won by Prince Cortauld

There was only one horse in it at the finish of the Chelmsford Stakes, main event of the Club's Spring Meeting at Randwick on 11th September. Prince Cortauld, owned by Mr. M. J. Moodabe, won impressively by two lengths from Lindbergh. The winner is trained by Maurice McCarten and was ridden by Neville Sellwood.

(Photo, courtesy "The Sun.")



Established 14th May, 1858

TATTERSALL'S CLUB

Sydney

'Phone: M 4111

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Pacific Coast Club *Riviera Country Club*
NEW YORK ATHLETIC CLUB
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OLYMPIC CLUB *San Francisco, Cal.*
SAN DIEGO CLUB *San Diego, Cal.*
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Magazine Editor: PETER MASSINGHAM

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HANDBALL:

P. B. Lindsay (Hon. Secretary), A. S. Block, A. McCamley.

BOWLING CLUB:

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MAGAZINE COMMITTEE : John Hickey (Chairman), J. A. Roles, G. Chiene, A. G. Collins, A. V. Miller, W. H. Sellen.



KEEPING POSTED

A BIG gathering of members enjoyed a great night's entertainment on Tuesday, 7th September, when the trophies won at the Club's Billiards and Snooker Tournaments, and in the Snooker Championship, were presented. The occasion was officially listed as a smoke-concert, and there were a number of enjoyable items; not the least were those contributed by Snooker Tournament winner Manrie Lyons, and by Alan Howarth and L. H. Howarth, place-getters in the Billiards. A particularly pleasant way of acknowledging the congratulations on their success—and widely applauded on the night.

TALKING of Billiards, we were particularly pleased to see that the contenders for the World Amateur Billiards Championship made good use of the Billiards Room when practising for the events. Members were delighted to watch the facility with which they run up breaks—they make the game look too easy.

THE Australian contenders, Bob Marshall and Tom Cleary, are no strangers to the Club, having played for the Australian Amateur Championship recently in the Club Room—Bob Marshall being the winner.

★ DANCING and CONCERT NIGHT

Dining Room, Saturday,
23rd OCTOBER, 1954

Commencing 6.30 p.m.

Cover Charge, 5/- per person

Reservations may be made at
Club Office.

MEMBERS who missed the cheery presence of Chairman John Hickey early this month, were sad and sympathetic to learn that he was having a "rest" in hospital. He was particularly missed at the Smoke Concert on 7th September, when the trophies for Billiards and Snooker were most ably presented by the Treasurer, John Roles, acting in the Chairman's stead. However, members were pleased to see John Hickey back in his usual place, greeting guests at the Committee's luncheon before the Club's Meeting at Randwick on 11th September at Randwick.

A BIG team of supporters from the North came down for the Meeting at Randwick on 11th September—Dave Mackie, Rex Sanderson, J. W. McLaughlin, R. Mahony, F. Fahey, D. G. Fitzpatrick, Eric Smith, Bert Bowser—to name just a few. They enjoyed a fine day's racing—one of the best Spring Meetings the Club has conducted in recent years.

EDITORIAL: What is Membership?

What is there to membership of a club?

That is one posed for you who have been more recently accepted into the fold—but it is a question that all of us might occasionally ponder.

Is it simply that you pay your subscription, shake hands all round, and settle down to enjoy the good company and relish the amenities?

If so, you have yet to learn the attributes of a good clubman and, until you do, you will be more or less of a misfit—jolly good fellow, maybe, but still lacking in an important essential:—the club spirit.

Just what is that? It is something that all may contribute yet none may buy, stock up, nor corner. You can't have it all on your own. It is a community commodity to be built up and shared proportionately.

It has to do with spiritual values—good conduct, goodwill, good service toward the other fellow and, in common, toward your club. Make your club a home away from home, feel a pride in membership, patronise your club when you can; do the best for it, for, assuredly, it is out to do the best by you

Happy Birthday to You!

OCTOBER

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 W. H. McLachlan | E. W. Vandenberg |
| 2 Dr. H. M. Owen | 17 S. E. Butler |
| W. Ross Alexander | 18 H. C. Henderson |
| J. G. Hurley | 18 G. M. Burden |
| 3 D. J. Benjamin | 19 Allan Turner |
| P. Flitcroft | 19 J. W. Drewette |
| 4 L. C. Wicks | 20 R. E. Callaghan |
| M. G. Lawton | 20 E. J. Millar |
| K. J. Patrick | 21 J. F. Kirkpatrick |
| 5 F. P. Robinson | 21 E. R. Deveridge |
| J. E. Wilson | 21 W. K. Fagan |
| W. A. Rodger | 22 J. W. Melville |
| E. Linton | 22 H. J. Hendy |
| 6 Mr. Justice Toose | 23 F. H. Huntington |
| W. G. Harris | 24 L. O. H. Williams |
| 7 Dr. J. E. Goldie | D. S. Orton |
| S. Isaacs | J. J. O'Shanassy |
| 8 Dr. R. Mackey | 25 W. K. A. Schaufelberger |
| I. M. Buchanan | W. R. Chalmers |
| N. H. Joseph | 26 S. D. C. Kennedy |
| R. G. Gregory | B. E. Schaaf |
| 9 S. S. Crick | Joseph Glass |
| J. T. Travers | J. A. Flitcroft |
| 10 S. R. Lamond | R. J. Moloney, Jr. |
| J. C. Glass | 27 Dr. N. S. Al-saker |
| B. Trimmell-Ritchard | C. H. Fischer |
| 11 A. D. Epstein | 28 F. C. Hidden |
| 12 Frank Selkirk | A. Dobson |
| J. H. Holman | 29 G. B. Bowser |
| 14 H. Townend | G. Carlos |
| A. Leslie Cooper | R. G. Spencer |
| E. L. Paul | 30 D. G. Cohen |
| W. R. de Meur | 31 D. J. Robertson |
| 16 F. E. Shepherd, Jr. | |

NOVEMBER

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| 1 C. W. Randall | Dr. A. B. Sullivan |
| F. E. Wilson | 19 C. W. Jackaman |
| 2 Harold Brown | S. S. Mellick |
| 3 A. S. Harrison | M. M. Watson |
| 4 W. H. Bray | M. H. Nissen |
| K. J. Polkinghorne | 20 H. W. Blewitt |
| Dr. N. H. Rose | A. E. McIlveen |
| E. A. Hodgkinson | 21 S. Peters |
| 7 K. S. Irwin | A. R. Harrison |
| 9 W. H. Travers | A. L. Naughton |
| Stan Williams | R. C. Crebbin |
| Dr. Cecil Adair | 22 M. Zammit |
| 10 J. J. Geard | J. R. Reeves |
| 11 E. F. Muller | H. Doerner |
| 12 D. G. Oakley | 23 D. N. Alexander |
| A. Sakzewski | G. Crichton-Smith |
| F. Lysons | A. W. Perry |
| 13 J. P. Ryan | J. W. O'Brien |
| J. D. Stuart | 24 D. H. B. Adams |
| John Fisher | N. W. Holman |
| 14 D. Mackie | J. R. Henderson |
| A. C. Gunter | 25 T. T. Manning |
| 15 Harold Sidgreaves | R. C. Dewley |
| G. C. Beardsmore | J. Hardiman |
| E. D. Shaw | 26 R. R. Coote |
| 16 A. K. Cowper | 27 L. Noakes, Snr. |
| 17 F. D. Foskey | Jack Molloy |
| Dr. H. Selle | 29 W. H. Davies |
| 18 L. W. McIntosh | L. G. Willis |
| V. A. Thicknesse | W. P. Foley |
| | 30 Barney Fay |
| | Jack Ryan |

Members are invited to notify the Secretary of the date of their Birthday.

ALSO back just in time for the Club's Meeting was Committeeman Bill Sellen, who has been revelling in the sun on holiday at Southport.

If you haven't yet attended one of the Club's Dinner and Concert Nights, you are missing enjoyment of the pleasantest functions the Fourth Floor has seen for years. The August event was a great success, and the September Dine-Dance-Concert evening, down for the 25th, looks like surpassing it. There are few entertainments as pleasurable as conviviality in the friendly atmosphere of your own Club.

WELCOME visitor from N.Z. during the month was R. J. Murphy—owner of Cuddle, Doncaster winner of some years past—and of Concentrate. Mr. Murphy is here for a short holiday.

AND yet more returning voyagers, following the sun: Jim Henderson, C. R. Cornwell, both back from overseas.

ADOLPH BASSER is also back from England—just at the right time for the Spring Racing Carnivals. It was characteristic of him that he made sure that his usual Legacy button was taken care of on Legacy Day, despite the fact that he was so far away.

DONALD WILSON came back with Adolph Basser, travelling on the same ship. They both had a thoroughly enjoyable trip, despite the cold and wet English summer—it would take more than rain to damp two such cheerful spirits.

COLONEL E. T. Penfold was elected at the last meeting of the N.R.M.A. Council, to fill the vacancy caused by the recent death of Mr. A. L. Rigby. Congratulations are in order! Colonel Penfold, a member of the distinguished company featured in this magazine as a "Man of the Month," is one of the earliest N.R.M.A. members.

GENIAL John Herries is another overseas traveller who has returned to the fold. He had quite a series of reunions with other members in London—with Don Wilson, who has also now returned, and with Stan Chatterton, Peter Farley, Lionel Coppleson, George Phillips.

A SHORTER sick list than usual: Roy Morris, convalescing at home. G. A. Gluck, also on the mend at his home. Homer Jones, now out of hospital and well on the way back to good health.

L. SCOTT-EHRENBURG is another member out and about again after a spell in hospital. Wally Watson, in hospital at the time of writing, but home again, we hope, before you read this. Sympathy and good cheer to W. P. Kerridge, not in the best of health for quite a while.

WELCOME back to another world-traveller! Cardiff Lewis, back from U.K. and U.S.A., is looking particularly bright and well.

A. WADDINGTON, welcome visitor in years gone by as Test bowler, and later as journalist, is on his way out with the English Team arriving in October; hopes to renew the friendships he made here before.

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KEEPING POSTED—from previous page



It's a grand idea to make up a party for the Club's Dine-Dance-and-Concert evenings, now held monthly on the fourth floor. This picture was taken at the August evening; for announcement of the next evening, see previous page.

BACK again after a holiday trip to Queensland, and looking fit and brown as a berry: Albert Page—ready for another year's work!

WORD comes from Eric McIlree, who thoroughly enjoyed the traditional hospitality of the Outrigger Canoe Club

in Honolulu on his way to the States.

COUNTRY member W. Lambell walked into the Club during the month—particularly welcome.

THE Editor is particularly grateful to Allan Dexter, secretary of the Bloodstock Breed-

ers' Association, for his great help in preparing the series on Australian thoroughbred studs—and for his article in this issue on the sire Valais. It is hoped to close the series with an interesting historical article on the earliest studs in New South Wales, a special study of which has been made by Mr. Douglas Barrie.

MEMBERS enjoyed the traditional hospitality of Mr. E. R. Williams on the first floor on 20th September, to join him in celebrating the successes of his horse, Pride of Egypt—winner of Hobartville Stakes, Rosehill and Canterbury Guineas. May he win many more!

MORE news of travellers: Stan Chatterton is enjoying every minute of his trip abroad—is in the best of health. John Coady, with Mrs. Coady, is off on a holiday jaunt to West Australia. Bowler Elgar Collins, back from the Empire Games, is being warmly welcomed by his friends.

STOP PRESS

SORRY to hear that J. H. Abbs has been ill—now well on the way back to good health. Wally Watson, too, is now out of hospital and on the mend.

★ Members! DINE and WINE IN YOUR CLUB

Dance Nights

Thursdays, 6.15 to
8.15 p.m.

SATURDAYS, 6.30
to 11 p.m.

in the friendly luxury of the well-appointed
Dining and Lounge Rooms

LUNCHEON (Monday to Friday) .. 12 noon to 2 p.m.

DINNER (Monday to Friday) 6 to 8 p.m.

DINNER (Saturday) 6 to 8.30 p.m.

Dining and Lounge Rooms - - 4th Floor

HANDBALL



"Amounis" Trophy Nears Exciting Finish

After a very slow month, events moved rapidly in the games for the "Amounis Trophy" as we went to press.

LAST month we reported that Geoff Eastment had defeated George McGilvray, the scores being 41-35; and what a game it was! The Handicaps were: Eastment 18, McGilvray scratch, and it speaks volumes for George's prowess that he scored 35 points against Geoff, who is a vastly improved player on a very good handicap. The game was a good one evenly contested, but with his handicap advantage, Geoff carried too many guns on the day. This game completed the 3rd Round—so a new draw was made for the 4th Round. All players were very keen, as a result of which the 4th Round has been completed and the scoreboard reads as follows:—

As predicted previously, Neil Barrell on a handicap of 29 is the logical favourite for this event. Geoff Eastment, after his exciting defeat of George McGilvray, was very confident, but Neil was much too good and won 41-35. He was never in danger of defeat. It was a very good game, enjoyed by both players and spectators.

John Dexter defeated Ken Francis 41-37 after a very stern struggle. John, on the low handicap of 10, is one of our up-and-coming front rank players. He justified the handicapper's opinion of him by defeating Ken—to whom he had to concede 16 points start. Ken is a much better player than his handicap of 26 denotes, and he was very

keen to win. However, on the day he found John on his very best game and went down 41-37, although the result was in doubt until the score was 36 all. An excellent contest enjoyed by all present!

The games in the bottom half more or less followed form, the most outstanding being that between George McGilvray and Fred Harvie. George won 41-33, but the game was much closer than the scores indicate. At 32 all, it appeared as though Fred had a chance, but a couple of close umpiring decisions seemed to upset him and he won only another point. Nevertheless, it seemed that George had the game under control and was a comfortable winner.

The most amazing game was the win of Bruce Partridge (scratch) over Lou Silk (28). The final scores were Partridge 41, Silk 30; which means Bruce scored 41 points whilst his opponent scored 2. His speed and accuracy were outstanding, and it was almost unbelievable that a player could be so consistent. Congratulations, Bruce, for such a superb display!

Eddie Davis defeated Cuth Godhard 41-39, and although the

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RESULTS—FOURTH ROUND

TOP HALF:

J. O. Dexter	(10)	defeated	K. Francis	(26)	41-37
Neil Barrell	(29)	"	G. Eastment	(18)	41-35

BOTTOM HALF:

George McGilvray	(Scr.)	eliminated	F. Harvie	(12)	41-33
Andy McGill	(20)	"	G. Boulton	(22)	41-34
Peter Williams	(27)	"	Zaide Lazarus	(15)	41-27
Bruce Partridge	(Scr.)	"	Lou Silk	(28)	41-30
Eddie Davis	(Scr.)	"	Cuth Godhard	(28)	41-39
Bob Adams		(A Bye)			

HANDBALL - continued

scores indicate a close game, Eddie won rather comfortably at the finish. He commenced very badly, misjudging a couple of shots—thereby losing early points. However, with the scores 39-35 against him, he really settled down and did not lose another point for a comfortable win.

Andy McGill had no trouble to

because he has experience, so a stern struggle was expected. However, Peter was on his game and was quite an easy winner 41-27, although the rallies were keenly contested and much closer than the scores indicate. As Bob Adams had a bye, this completed the round.

A new draw was made immediately as follows:—

DRAW — FIFTH ROUND

TOP HALF:

J. O. Dexter (10) V. Neil Barrell (29)

BOTTOM HALF:

Geoff Eastment (18)	V.	Bruce Partridge (Scratch)
Andy McGill (20)	V.	George McGilvray (Scratch)
Ken Francis (26)	V.	Eddie Davis (Scratch)
Peter Williams (27)	V.	Bob Adams (28)

eliminate Gordon Boulton. Gordon is one of our most popular members, and it was hard luck for him to meet Andy in such good form. Peter Williams had a comfortable win against Zaide Lazarus, and is a popular choice to win the bottom half of this competition. Zaide is one of the most difficult players to defeat,

Several games have already been completed, but these will not be reported until next month. Cheerio until then!

PERSONAL

Peter Lindsay has been absent from the 3rd Floor for a couple of weeks. The reason: Peter and May have been enjoying the school holidays with

Robin and Margaret at Minnamurra. Lucky people!

Sam Block has been having an unhappy time over the last few weeks, as his dear old mother and his sister have been very ill. Sam has been really worried. However, Sam, you have the best wishes of all the Handball and Swimming members.

Bill Brooks is also undergoing a trying period. His brother, "Bunny," is in hospital and Bill tells me it is very serious. Cheer up. Bill! We all hope your brother recovers very quickly.

Bob Withycombe is seen regularly in the Club again, and it is good to see him looking so well. We are glad to see you, Bob!

Congratulations!

Arthur McCamley has been receiving best wishes and "pats on the back" from his friends of the 3rd Floor and throughout the Club, for Battlestep's win at Hawkesbury after a long run of losses. Arthur received the congratulations on behalf of his family, who race Battlestep for the estate of their late father.

Results

TATTERSALL'S CLUB SNOOKER CHAMPIONSHIP, 1954

A. V. Miller	beat	C. E. Young	by 2-0 (52/28, 44/18)
E. A. Westhoff	"	A. J. Chown	" 2-0 (44/32, 50/33)
S. M. Norton	"	G. Fienberg	" 2-0 (59/23, 55/11)
F. Vockler	"	A. V. Miller	" 2-0 (63/53, 61/38)

SEMI-FINAL

S. M. Norton	beat	E. A. Westhoff	by 2-1 (52/77, 59/44, 30/58)
A. G. Bull	"	F. Vockler	" 2-0 (55/26, 72/13)

FINAL

A. G. Bull	beat	S. M. Norton	by 3-1 (54/29, 24/58, 73/22, 73/26)
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BOWLING NOTES



FOUR MATCHES— FOUR WINS!

In our four contests this month we were successful in recording four wins. The coveted Double Bay Cup was one of the events on the programme, and our win of 15 points was certainly a meritorious performance.

AT this juncture, Tatt's. Bowlers would like to offer their hearty congratulations to President Al Mahony and the Members of Double Bay on the magnificent new Club House, and a special thanks to that genial, efficient and hard working Hon. Secretary—Roy King.

It has been rumoured that Fridays in the near future will be another playing day at the Bay, much to the delight of the "White Beret Brigade."

Very much in the limelight at the present time is Alan Turner, and time he has spent with Bowling Champion Albert Newton has certainly brought him to the fore. His decisive defeat of 24 points against Sam Peters was indeed a masterly effort, and even those as far away as Perth could hear the running commentary on the game, despite Sam's laryngitis.

In a similar match Bill McDonald just scraped home by a margin of one from that erstwhile Champ. Ken Williams. State honours are also predicted for the "Chief" as a Skip.—the selectors would do well to note his outstanding leadership. In the recent social match at Manly he displayed rare ingenuity in playing his team on what the less experienced would term the wronghand.

In the forthcoming Carnival at Double Bay, Tatt's. Bowlers are well represented and on

present form should be amongst the prizewinners.

The month's results are as follows:

RESULTS:—

Tattersall's 108, Cinema 85.

Ball, McKendrick, Young, Traversi (Tatt's.)	85
Drewette, Naylor, Gelvers, Morphes (Cinema)	17
Stewart, Abbott, Ahern, Hill (Tatt's.)	20
Kennedy, Saunders, McPherson, Chessell (Cinema)	23
Mitchell, Harris, Jones, Turner (Tatt's.)	28
Wakeham, Wilson, Hinton, Nix (Cinema)	9
O'Brien, Dittford, Glynn, Booth (Tatt's.)	25
Gawler, Granger, Gillespie, Webster (Cinema)	20
Cook, Silk, Monro, McDonald (Tatt's.)	15
Graham, Sheppard, Phillips, Barmby (Cinema)	16

Tattersall's 84, Manly Surf Club 78.

Mitchell, McGrath, Norbett-Jones, Booth (Tatt's.)	29
Bulley, Mathews, Rutlege, Bale (Manly)	24
J. Cook, H. Harris, A. Buckle, Hill (Tatt's.)	28
Ellis, Mathews, McCallum, Dawson (Manly)	29
R. Halls, Cohen, Silk, Traversi (Tatt's.)	27
Taylor, Nette, Henley, Kay (Manly)	25

Tattersall's 70, Double Bay 55.

A. Gillespie, E. A. Davis, W. Black, G. Booth (Tatt's.)	28
O. Triggs, J. Main, G. McPhee, M. Sansom (D. Bay)	19
J. Harris, K. Williams, Norbett-Jones, J. O'Neill (Tatt's.)	24
O. Ahser, F. Kirby, N. G. Taylor, C. Baker (D. Bay)	19
J. Saulwick, J. K. Monro, J. Trainor, C. L. Davis (Tatt's.)	18
J. Hoare, L. D. Davis, C. Coombes, T. Evans (D. Bay)	17

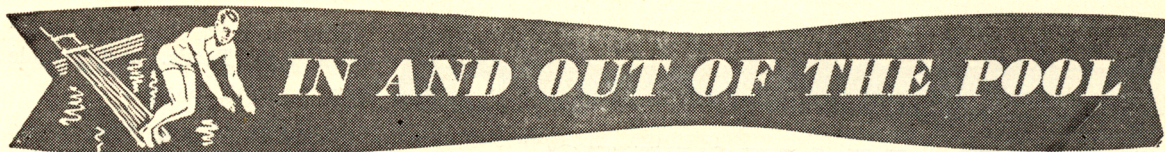
Tattersall's 80, Insurance Co. 49.

A. Gillespie, F. Ahearn, K. Williams, F. Kreiger (Tatt's.)	31
Cox, Aiken, Heath, Grace (Ins.)	18
W. Simpson, J. McKendrick, I. Silk, G. Booth (Tatt's.)	26
Jenkins, Warner, Brown, Skelton (Ins.)	15
A. Mitchell, J. Ruthven, J. K. Monro, A. Turner (Tatt's.)	23
Wilson, Box, Devitt, Dowling (Ins.)	16

It is understood that another recruit soon to be bowling them down with Tatt's. and Double Bay, is Adolf Basser.

An asset to any side is Joe (Plaster) Harris, as was instanced in the recent Manly match, and Fred Emerson is always dangerous with a bowl in his hand.

Hard working Hon. Secretary Alex Buckle is to be congratulated on the number of entries he has in hand for the Tatt's. next mid-week Knockout Competition.



Bigger, Better, Brighter than Ever — The Swimming Club Ball

Big item of the month in the Swimming Club was the success of the Annual Ball held in the Club Rooms on Saturday, 18th September.

WHILST it is not news that the function was a big success—it would have been news if it had not—this year's affair was noteworthy for the number of members who were attending for the first time and who, incidentally, won't ever miss in future if they can help it.

Sickness prevented a number of our old friends from being on deck, amongst them being Club Chairman John Hickey.

Committeeman Frank Carberry did the honours in John's absence and presented the trophies won during the past season, during the interlude in the Ball.

It was appropriate that Frank should make the presentations, for, as announcer Jack Dexter pointed out, Frank was an Australian Swimming Champion.

He must have been intrigued by the performance of Jon Henricks, fresh from his triumphs in the Empire Games and in the United States, who gave an exhibition to our guests over 100 yards and in slow motion showed the reason why he is so truly titled the fastest swimmer in the world.

When we say slow motion we mean that Jon was obviously half

pace and it was amazing that the clock showed 54 secs. for the hundred.

As Frank Carberry said afterwards, "When I was at my best the champions used to train hard for months and were happy to do round 57 or 58, and here we saw Henricks paddle the distance in 54."

The Pool has never looked better than it did at the Ball, enhanced as it was by the beautiful frocks of the ladies, and the guests thoroughly enjoyed the short programme of racing by Club members.

The regular Teams' Race was contested by three teams of seven men each swimming two laps. It resulted in a good win for Fred Harvie's team, though Alan Stewart put up a great effort for his team to run Harvie fairly close. Geoff. Laforest's septette was third.

Harvie had with him Harry Davis, Bill Williams, Bill Sellen, Neil Barrell, Keith Donald and Fred Daly, and the ladies who nominated them, Mesdames Harvie, Davis, Sellen, Barrell, Donald and Daly and Miss Clifford, all received presents of perfume.

The Novelty Consolation event

was a Cork Scramble, in which after quite an amount of jostling and ducking, John Dexter Junior was adjudged to have collected the greatest number of corks, resulting in a gift of perfume for Mrs. Dexter.

Trophies for achievements during the season were presented by Frank Carberry as follow:—

"Native Son" Annual Point

Score (donated by Bill Kirwan)

First—Bob Harris.

Second—J. O. Dexter.

Club Championship (donated by Alf Collins)

Second—Geoff Laforest.

Third—J. O. Dexter.

Monthly Point Score (donated by Arthur McCamley and Clive Hoole)

Geoff Laforest, Harold Her-
man, Alan Stewart, Ralph
Corrick, Bob Harris, Ar-
thur McCamley.

"T.M.S." Consolation Trophies

Max Wayland, Bill Williams,
Fred Daly.

Unavoidably absent from the presentations were Trevor Barrell, third in "Native Son" and winner of two monthly Point Scores, Malcolm Fuller, winner of Club Championship, Cuth Godhard, monthly Point Score winner.

In the Ballroom, proceedings were kept at top by a floor show and the excellent music of our

old friend Merv Lyons and his orchestra, and when time came to close, the general verdict was that it was all too early, even though time had been extended.

Popular feature of the Spot Dance was the win of Jon Henricks and his mother.

To Tattersall's Club Secretary Dave Dawson, his officials and staff go the thanks of the Swimming Club for their organisation and co-operation, without which the Ball could not have been the success that it was.

It only seems the other day that racing for the 1953-54 season finished. Now it is announced that the 1954-55 season will open with a 40 yards Handicap on Tuesday, 12th October.

Old members should write this date in their diaries and new members are cordially invited to join up and participate in the friendly and exciting events which are held on each Tuesday and Thursday.

Time trials may be arranged before the opening of the season and no matter how fast or slow you are Handicapper John Gunton will see to it that you are put on a mark that will enable you to get the best sport and exercise out of the racing.

IRELAND RECALLS AN HISTORICAL HORSE RACE

According to records preserved in an old manuscript in Dromoland Castle, Co. Clare, residence of Lord Inchiquin, in 1752 a Mr. O'Callaghan and a Mr. Edmund Blake decided to have a race across country on horseback from Buttevant, Co. Cork, to the nearby church-steeple of St. Leger's Church.

HISTORY does not record who won, but it is now generally accepted that this impromptu contest was the first-ever steeplechase. It antedated by a full 40 years a similar event in Leicestershire, and also the famous contest between the officers of the cavalry mess at Ipswich in 1803, when the competitors wore white nightshirts and night-caps over their ordinary clothes, and the winner was, "Captain Cannonball on a hot bay."

Recently the race from Buttevant to the spire of St. Leger's Church was run in reverse — from Doneraile, Co. Cork, to Buttevant — over a stiff 5½ miles natural course as an An Tostal event, organised by the local committee in Buttevant in connection with the Duhallow

Hunt. Thirty riders, all in full hunting kit took part, in teams of three, and the following famous Irish hunts had entries — the Kildares, the United, Tipperary, the Scarteen Black-and-Tans, the Avondhu, the Duhallows and the Killagh Harriers. Two members of the famous "Killing Kildares" teams were American-born.

One of them was the famous film director of "Moulin Rouge," "African Queen" and "Treasure of Sierra Madre," John Huston, and the other Tim Durant, who recently got married in full hunting kit in Co. Kildare.

Before the start the 30 riders assembled at Doneraile Court and moved in procession past the church of St. Leger—the finishing post for the first steeplechase.

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Ideal Spring Weather again Favoured Club's Race Fixture

The September race meeting of the Club, held in brilliant Spring weather at Randwick on Saturday, September 11, attracted an attendance of upwards of 41,000 who saw racing at its best with most of the top-class horses in the line-ups. Everything passed off without a hitch and the Club executive and its officials did a grand job. All were congratulated on the success of the fixture.

K EEN competition was order of the afternoon, and patrons saw Derby, Epsom and Metropolitan candidates in action. The main handicap double was won by Randwick trained gallopers, and some Club members shared in the distribution of the stake-money.

It was, all in all, as good a day's racing as the most blase racegoer could desire. For club members, the meeting had the interest and added significance that attaches to this reminder that the privilege of four Tattersall days a year at Randwick, stems from the practical and sporting interest given the early and struggling days of racing in this State by our forbears. To the serious student of form, the main events were followed with special interest, in the hopes that there might be some disclosure of form for the important races of the A.J.C. Spring Meeting early in October.

Finish of the Tramway Handicap—a prelude to the Epsom Handicap—was one of the best in the main sprint for many months and reflected credit upon the handicapper.

Six-year-old Bronze Peak, ridden by country jockey, G. Baird, who holds a formidable winning record, had to be ridden out to beat the favourite Connaught in the Tramway with

topweight and second favourite Karendi the closest of thirds.

Bronze Peak enjoyed a pull in the weights following his previous win in Newcastle Cameron Handicap, but that performance wasn't reflected in the betting ring, as Bronze Peak was allowed to go out at 12 to 1. He hasn't been an easy horse to train, otherwise he would hold a better winning record.

The £1,400 Spring Handicap, same stake-money as the Tramway, saw warm favourite Lord Forrest back to best form. He carries the Hydrogen colours of Mr. E. R. Williams, who was delighted to see his 5-year-old Delville Wood (imp.) horse win in good style from Top Level and Casa.

Lord Forrest was ridden a nice race by N. Sellwood, who also scored on Telyar and Prince Cortauld, both from the Maurice McCarten stable.

The Chelmsford Stakes, highlight of the fixture, produced another interesting race which is always expected in this historic event run under weight for age conditions with allowances.

Hydrogen was the main withdrawal, while Telyar competed in an easier race in the Three and Four-Year-Old Handicap, which proved a soft snap for the 3-year-old.

Prince Cortauld had been taken from the harder race, the

Tramway, in which he had 9.4, or 4 pounds over weight-for-age, to compete in the Chelmsford, and besides being one of the most interesting horses in the field, he ran home an easy winner in brilliant time, 1.49½. This was brought about by the fast pace set by 3-year-old Lindbergh who was beaten into second place, while Advocate gained the minor situation.

Gallant Archer came home fast from the rear of the field and beat all except the placegetters.

Two years ago Delta, owned by Mr. Adolph Basser, ran the Chelmsford in Randwick time record of 1 min. 49½ secs., but the Australian record is held by Beau Vite, a New Zealander, who won races at Randwick about 14 years ago.

Topweight Krakatoa, owned by Singapore millionaire Runme Shaw, whose interests here are watched by Mel Lawson, gave another boost to a favourites' day when he gained the verdict from Silvero in the Highweight Handicap. His win gave a "double" to trainer T. J. Smith, who also saddled-up Top Ruler, winner of the second Novice Handicap.

Another "double" went to New Zealand owner Mr. M. J. Moodabe; his colt Telyar, starting a hot favourite at odds-on, won the Three and Four-Year-Old Handicap as a prelude to the win by his other starter, Prince Cortauld, in the Chelmsford Stakes.

Win by favourite Belbeys in the 1st Novice Handicap completed the record of an excellent day for punters.

Tattersall's Chelmsford Stakes is Event of High Rating

Tattersall's Club has long had the distinction and privilege of staging, each September, the first important weight-for-age race of the Sydney spring season—the Chelmsford Stakes, run over nine furlongs, with allowances. Members who watched the Chelmsford Stakes run this year owe much to the foresight of an earlier Club executive which brought this famous contest into being, for it indeed is now an historical event.

THIS notable and attractive contest, first run in 1895, has brought together the best horses in Australia and New Zealand, and some winners have had more than one success.

Limerick, a grand performer and a New Zealander, won the Chelmsford three times, 1926-27-28 as did Delta in 1950-51-52. Rogilla was a dual winner.

This year's race was worth £2,000, plus the sweepstakes. From that amount the owner of the second horse received £400 and the owner of the third, £200. Since Limerick's successes class performers from New Zealand to win the race included: Ammon Ra, Gaine Carrington, Mala, Royal Chief, Beaulivre, Beau Vite, and Sleepy Fox. Prince Cortauld, winner this year, is not a New Zealand horse — but he is owned by a New Zealander, Mr. M. J. Moodabe.

In his third victory Delta ran a remarkable gallop, 1-49½, which was an Australian record for nine furlongs. He beat Hydrogen and Idlewild, and Hydrogen has since become top prizemoney winner in this country. Apart from this year's winner, Delta was the only horse in Chelmsford history to break 1-51 and his time might take a bit of toppling. He was another of the great horses of the Australian turf.

Last year three-year-old Royal Stream (B. Smith) won the race from even money favourite Carioca (W. Cook) and Prince Cortauld (N. Sellwood). The surprise winner ran the nine furlong's in 1.51.

Club members have figured prominently in the list of winning owners of the popular race and it is hoped they will continue to lead in its winners. After all a Chelmsford won by a club member, is an achievement of note and gives added zest to the result.

Mention of New Zealand successes in this early spring attraction recalls the runaway win of Gloaming in the 1918 contest and a performance which always will remain fresh in the memory of clubmen, who at that time saw in opposition some of the greatest horses to have raced in this country.

Gloaming, who by the way, was first named Celestial, was a maiden when he came to Australia from the Dominion and in the Chelmsford he had a 10 pound's allowance. His midget jockey Des O'Connor, who still is a regular racegoer, rode him at 6.10 and the winning margin was given as a conservative eight lengths. It looked more like 12 but maybe the A.J.C. didn't have a printed board margin giving that number of lengths at the time. Rebus 9/4 was second and Kennaquhair third.

Rebus started favourite at 9/4, with Gloaming at 7/2. Kennaquhair was at 20/1.

There were some moderates among the also-run but they also included such famous horses at Poitrel, Cetigne, Estland, and Lingle. Gloaming earned a £687 stake but it was the forerunner of a long string of successes which altogether netted his owner £43,100 from 57 wins and nine seconds. He was once out of a place and on that occasion (in New Zealand), he was left at the post. As a 3-year-old he won 13 races.

Just as a refresher for the older members of the club who saw that noted speedster in action that Chelmsford day, September 14, 1918, other winners included Panacre, a top-class sprinter, Prince Viridis, who sported the "Baron" Brown livery, and Publican in the Wel-ter. By contrast with some Novice fields of to-day, 34 contested the Novice Six and it was 7's the field. Winner Bezant was a 33 to 1 shot.

While on the subject of great horses it is worthy of mention that America's famous 4-year-old grey speedster, Native Dancer, recently concluded his racing career and will go to the stud. His winnings from 21 firsts in 22 starts netted £355,000 for owner A. G. Vanderbilt. The grey set a world's record for a 2-year-old winner, amassing £103,000 at that age, but the figure didn't stay long as another American Hasty Road won £123,000 last year.

Citation remains the world's greatest stakes' winner with £484,714, followed by Stymie £410,038, and Armed £362,944.

Please turn to Page 24

Quiet Gus Widmer — Triple Quarter-Mile Champion

If time could be made to stand still for us—or rather, if it could be adjusted to suit our needs, there is little doubt that the Club could field outstanding teams in nearly every sporting activity you might name. If different times and generations were brought together for us at their prime, we would be hard to beat at Rugby or League, at Swimming or Tennis, at Billiards or Boxing or Athletics.

PERHAPS it is true that outstanding sportsmen are a little more congenial than the average; perhaps it is that the sporting tradition of the Club appeals more to them than to the average—whatever the reason may be, there is no doubt that our ranks number some of Australia's "greats" in sport. As the years roll by for them, often their performances are forgotten—for the champion is usually the most modest of men about his own feats, and is the last to bring them into conversation.

So, if you were talking to Gus Widmer on the First Floor or in the Cardroom, you would mark him as a quiet, friendly man, a congenial companion with a wide knowledge of racing gained through years of fielding; you would scarcely remember, unless you were reminded, that he is one of the outstanding Australian footballers and sprinters, that he held at the one time the quarter mile Championships of N.S.W., Victoria and New Zealand.

Gus Widmer began his career just a little after the turn of the century in a profession that has little in common with his later choice of bookmaking—except mathematics; his first job was as a pupil-teacher at Drummoyne Public School. As a pupil at Fort St., Gus had shown promise as a runner, but he was a good swimmer, too—about 1904 Gus won the N.S.W. Teachers' 100 yards Swimming Championship. In the same year he won the first Handicap swim in the brand-new Drummoyne Baths—off scratch; also the Drummoyne Swimming Club Championship. But he was keener about athletics, especially sprinting. Knowing the two would clash, he decided to drop swimming and concentrate on athletics, but not to mix the two.

The following year he won a 75 yards and a 100 yards handicap open to teachers. He was getting on well in the Teaching profession, too; Gus gained a Scholarship and was entered

at the Teachers' Training College. That season he started running with the Birchgrove Harriers, won an open event and then the Cardinal's Cup from scratch.

In 1905 or 1906, Gus Widmer's standard in sprint events reached top class. He won the N.S.W. 100 yards Championship on the Sydney Cricket Ground from Nigel Barker in 10 seconds flat—a good time for tracks in those days. The same year he also took the State 440 yards.

Up from Melbourne came an invitation to meet the famous Arthur Duffy in an invitation Race over 100 yards, and Gus accepted the challenge with alacrity. Arrangements when completed, had Duffy off scratch, Widmer $\frac{1}{2}$ yard, Muller the Victorian Champion on 2 yards, G. A. Moir—Australian Champion of the late 1890's, then well past his prime—with the Victorian schoolboy champion, off 6 yards. The race, these days, would have needed a photo for the finish; the verdict was for Duffy by 3 inches!

Gus went straight from the finish of that race to gain his revenge and won the 440 yards Championship of Victoria. Further invitations followed, and he, Duffy and Shrubbs went on to tour

New Zealand. Gus was successful over there and returned to Australia with the New Zealand 440 yards Championship in his pocket. Next season he met Nigel Barker again in the State 100 yards — this time Barker had his revenge. More, he clocked 9 seconds, a time that had officials and timekeepers scurrying around — until the track was measured and found to be exactly 90 yards.

It was almost inevitable that football would claim a husky young man who could break 10 seconds for the hundred. Gus Widmer played a couple of seasons with Balmain, on the wing of course; in 1907 Balmain beat their old rivals, Glebe, by 6 points to nil — and young Gus scored the six points. Glebe officials, with this rather striking sample before them thought that Gus had every prospect of reaching the top in football, and approached him to change his Club. However, Gus refused the offer, although it made a lasting impression on him.

A chance meeting in King Street with H. D. Wood, the great 'Varsity full-back, later to be elected President of Rugby Union, lead Gus to changes which affected the whole course of his life. The original Wallabies had just left for England, and Wood stopped young Gus Widmer, whom he scarcely knew to speak to, to tell him that if he had been a selector, Gus would have been on his way as one of them. Gus had scarcely rated himself in that class, but Wood was obviously sincere, so he went back home and told his mother that he was leaving — to see whether he really was a footballer or not.

A couple of days later he took up his residence at the

University Hotel — at the time the very heart and centre of Glebe's sporting activities, headquarters of Glebe Football, Cricket and Rowing Clubs. The Hotel was filled with an atmosphere of sport most invigorating for a young man — Jim Woods, of Duke of Syke fame was a fellow boarder — Arthur Cripps stayed there on his periodical trips down from Queensland to fight; and the rooms echoed to the voices of other young men anxious to make their name in that Golden Age of Sport.

Gus took up Glebe's offer to play with them, of course. Next season, with the Wallabies back, competition was tough. The three Farnsworth were at their peak — Bill, Ray and Viv; so was Herb Gilbert, and many other great football names. On the credit side, Gus gained in advice and help, particularly from Tarra Baird and Jim Guthrie — who advised him, among other things, to change to the new studded boots. Upshot was that, playing for Glebe who won that year's competition (1909), Gus scored the greatest number of tries by any one player in competition Union between 1900 and 1929. He represented for N.S.W. that year, and again in 1910. But, if you talk to him about it, Gus will hasten to suggest that most of the credit lies with the "inside" men—Freddie Woods, Chris McKivatt, Darby Hickey, Roy Norman.

After the excitement of football; after the excitement of living in the heady, sporting atmosphere of the University Hotel, it was almost inevitable that teaching would begin to pall. Gus was a good teacher, well liked, and it was only after a deal of soul-searching that he finally resigned, and became a

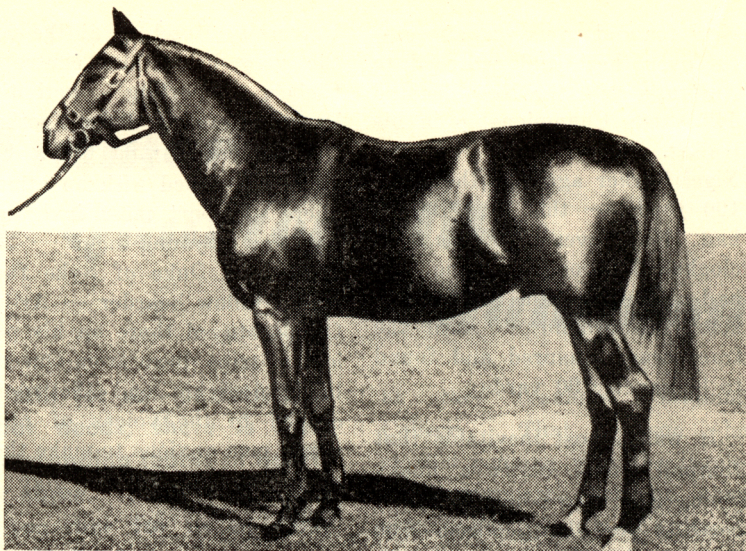
bookmaker's clerk. He must have had rather exalted ideas of the qualifications needed — his references to the A.J.C. included one from Mr. J. W. Turner, Director of Technical Education—and one from a State Minister, Hon. Thomas Henley. However, the A.J.C. was unperturbed, and Gus started with Alec Williams, and later with "Old Jim" Hackett.

Later Gus Widmer joined the ranks of the Fielders himself, working himself through to the Paddock. This side of his life is best-known to members — he resigned his licence only a few years ago. Like all top sportsmen, his interest remained keen in many branches of sport — tennis for a while, then golf and bowls; he is currently a very popular President of Long Reef Golf Club.

Not the least of his successes over the years was as a pigeon fancier. One of his birds won the Derby of the N.S.W. Homing Club in 1931 from Ivanhoe (430 miles). Other members who have shared his enthusiasm for pigeons are Mr. Hordern, Tom Longworth (Bill Longworth's father), the Tancreds and W. K. Dawes—of Belmont Park fame.

Now, if you asked Gus Widmer at three-score years and ten to tell you about his running, he would probably say that the only running he intends to do is running up a bill. But, as far as I know he is the only man ever to have held the triple quartermile Championships of N.S.W., Victoria and New Zealand. And, with his upright figure and the twinkle in his eye under the white thatch, there is plenty of enthusiasm yet for other fields for Gus Widmer; for, once a sportsman — always a sportsman.

The Valais Blood



(Photo. courtesy "The Sun.")

The Australian thoroughbred to-day is not the poor little chimney sweep of the world's racing. Shannon has brought to the United States a realisation that an Australian racehorse can be a champion. Bernborough's stock is already acclaimed and Royal Gem has sired a winner of the Kentucky Derby, American Classic.

THE intensive bloodstock student will advance many reasons for Australia's improved horseflesh. Breeding is more selective, training and feeding perhaps is better. Veterinary science has advanced and the limestone plains and hillocks on which champions are reared are studied more closely.

No one will argue that such advancements have been unimportant in bringing the Australian bloodhorse to world parity. Yet perhaps even more vital were the last months of and the early days after World War I, when two N.S.W. breeding establishments, looking abroad for new sires, imported from England two stallions, Magpie and Valais.

Magpie went to Kia Ora, Seone, to give Australia a staying line which has never been excelled. Valais went first to

Arrowfield, near Muswellbrook, and later to Widden, to introduce a sire line and a strain of brilliance which still is coursing through the veins of Australia's best racers and stud stock. It gave to Australia such racehorses as Heroic, Hall Mark, Hua, Flight, Manfred and Fuji San.

Racing stock has been bred in Australia from the day in 1799 when the first blood stallion, Young Rockingham, stepped on to the slopes of Sydney Cove. But some think that in the years since then, perhaps no stallion has had such an extensive influence upon the Australian turf as has Valais.

Today, almost any yearling with Valais blood will top the thousand guineas. In a stud career cut short by an untimely death, the great horse headed the winning sires' list five times.

And his greatest son, Heroic, headed the list seven times in succession. His greatest grandson, Ajax, sold to the U.S. for 13,000 guineas, when at the height of his stud career.

Yet there was nothing to suggest, when first he came to Australia, that Valais would change the course of Australian breeding.

Certainly Valais had been a good racehorse in England. He had won up to a mile and seven furlongs, had finished fourth in the 1916 English Derby (won by Fifinella) and, according to his owner, Washington Singer, had been a trifle unlucky.

Through both his sire, Cicero, and his dam, Lily of the Valley, he was a member of the successful Bend Or line, and of a famous sire line descended from the great Beeswing. However, it was breeding little better than other English stallions brought to Australia. Apparently England thought she was losing nothing when Valais was bought by Messrs. W. and F. A. Moses, of Arrowfield, for about 3,500 guineas. A few years later, the Moses brothers were

to sell Valais at auction for 14,400 guineas, 1,400 guineas higher than the Duke of Portland had paid for Carbine.

During the war, the Moses brothers had asked C. C. Edwards, manager for Lord Rosebery, to select for them a promising sire. Edwards first sent out a horse which proved value less. To compensate, he later cabled that he could secure Valais.

Valais had already done one light season in England. He had served eight mares, but none of the progeny was old enough to race. Perhaps it was fortunate for Australia that they were not. When their time did come to skim the English turf, four of the offspring were winners. One of them, Castilian, was among the best two-year-olds of his year.

For all his great record in Australia, Valais was not a really good foal-getter, and few young horses by him were offered at his first yearling sales in 1922. There was little, either, in the appearance of the original Valais stock to bring that instantaneous murmur of excitement when they stepped into the sale ring.

The first Valais was a bay colt from Confetti. Randwick trainer the late Jack Whitworth, got him for 190 guineas. The highest Valais that year was a filly, subsequently named Lady Valais, for 825 guineas. In later seasons, the Valais yearlings were to sell as high as 5,500 guineas.

That first year, Valais produced four winners of seven races, worth £3,892. They won none of the big events for two-year-olds, but they gave the first foreshadowing of the future. Among them were Lady Valais, who won an A.J.C. St. Leger; Quintus, who as a three-year-old won the Newmarket Handicap, and was second to

Claro in the Epsom Handicap; Valiard, a Newmarket winner; Valiant, a good Melbourne miler, and two good Melbourne stayers, Valbee and Valwyne.

Valais really hit his stride in the next season, but this time there were few bargains.

In a decade when a pound was worth a pound, C. T. Godby, acting for J. R. Corteen, had to bid 1,800 guineas to secure a chestnut colt by Valais from Chersonese. They named it Heroic. And if the purchasers didn't reap the full reward for their judgment, at least they sold Heroic, as a three-year-old, for the then record price of 16,600 guineas.

That second season, Valais topped the winning sires list with £28,379.

His second crop of horses was amazing. His son, Heroic, perhaps is one of the two best horses to have raced in Aus-

tralia. The other was Phar Lap.

Fuji San has seldom been excelled as a miler; Valamita was a w.f.a. winner and a first-class stayer; Metellus dead-heated in an Epsom Handicap; Lausanne was close to champion sprint class.

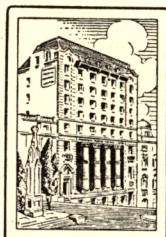
For the next four years, Valais remained Australia's most successful sire. His progeny won £38,876 in 1924-25; £57,368 in 1925-26; £43,455 in 1926-27, and although he then was dead, £36,166 in 1927-28.

By the end of 1928-29, the direct Valais success was starting to taper off. His progeny, which could not be replenished now, was getting old.

Valais dropped to fifth place with £21,863, and finally slipped from the sires' list altogether after 1934-35, when his stock won only £2,210.

But what horses he had sired! Put together only the outstand-

Next Page, Please



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THE VALAIS BLOOD *From Previous Page*

ing and they were an array of galloping greatness and breeding potentiality. There were Heroic and Manfred, Fuji San and Quintus, Valiard, Valamita, Vaals, Sion, Valicare, Gilt Edge, Thracian, Valparaiso and Monash Valley. Even Avant Coureur, the most costly Valais yearling sold (5,500 guineas) was not a complete failure. He won a Caulfield Guineas, and on his day (which unfortunately wasn't every day) he had speed which would leave even the fastest gasping.

Valais influence was not to vanish with his death. His son, Heroic, winner of £38,062 as a racehorse, sired winners of more than £293,000, and was leading Australian stallion for seven years running. In his turn at the stud he sired:—

Ajax, who won £40,275 in stakes, was sold to the U.S. for 13,000 guineas, and in Australia sired Magnificent, Chaperone, Pantomime, Mine Host, Tivoli Star and Dynamite.

Hua, winner of a Victoria Derby, a great stayer himself and sire of San Domenico, The Groom and Sentiment.

Royal Step, sire of Australia's greatest race mare, Flight.

The Marne, weight-for-age winner over sprint courses, good up to a mile, and sire of Dark Marne.

Valiant Chief, sire of the A.J.C. Derby winner, Valiant

Crown, and the Melbourne stayer, Valcurl, who won two Moonee Valley Cups.

Hall Mark, winner of the Melbourne Cup as a three-year-old, later a Doncaster Handicap, £28,619 in stakes, and who was a successful sire.

But it was not through Heroic alone that Valais has had his effect on the Australian turf. Manfred sired the Caulfield and Melbourne Cups winner, The Trump, also Manolive and Mil-dura.

Vaals, after leaving Australia, became a leading sire in New Zealand; Monash Valley, a Queensland Derby winner, sired good winners in Queensland; Sion had successes at the stud; and Valamita, with few chances, got his share of winners.

Valais and Heroic mares have become the outstandling matrons of Big Australian studs. Ajax sired the dams of Pride of Egypt, Fascinating and Barfleur. Years hence, thoroughbred auctioneers will be importuning buyers to bid up because "this yearling has a double cross of the famous Valais blood."

To some of his progeny and particularly to his two greatest, Heroic and Manfred, Valais imparted a strange high-spiritedness which cost them big races.

Heroic was left at the post hopelessly in the 1924 A.J.C. Sires' Produce Stakes, and often he acted like a brumby at the barrier.

Manfred was even worse, was left in his A.J.C. Sires' Produce, stood at the mark twice in one day at Flemington on Newmarket Day, 1926, and gave the field 100 yards start in the A.J.C. Derby (this, however, didn't stop him; he won that race).

The people closest to Valais could not understand the reason for that mad streak of fire and wilfulness. At Arrowfield, Valais was a quiet, docile horse who would allow anyone to crawl beneath him, or jump on his bare back.

However, he did have two bad habits. He would bite at his knees, gouging large pieces of flesh from them. Tired of that, he would lean against the fence of his acre yard and kick at the wooden uprights. The Moses brothers tried practically every known method to cure Valais. Finally they thought he might be lonely and needed a companion to take his mind from himself. So they built a small yard alongside the stallion's "paddock," and in it put a small pony. The pair chummed up, would play all day. From the moment he first met this new friend, Valais forgot his biting and kicking and settled down to normal life.

Unlike most valuable stallions, Valais was ridden constantly. A special seven furlong track was built for him at Arrowfield and Valais was trotted or cantered two miles every day.

Valais, a chestnut, was one of the most striking individuals to have been imported to Australia. He had a short back, powerful quarters and shoulders, good length, wide-set eyes and nostrils, long ears and good, flat bone. He had, too, a magnificent skin which shone like a sovereign. He passed that skin to most of his progeny, together with distinctive black spots on the rump. Heroic had them, so

QUOTA FOR OCTOBER, 1954

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did Ajax, and when a yearling with Valais blood enters the ring with the "champion" marks on him, it adds a few hundred guineas to the purchasing price.

Valais did not spend his whole career at Arrowfield. When that stud was dispersed in April, 1924, Valais was sold for 14,400 guineas to Messrs. A. W. and H. S. Thompson. He went to Widden, with its magnificent paddocks and slopes. But he was destined not to produce again the champions of his earlier career.

It was not that Valais was not getting good mares. The Widden matrons were, and still are, the equal at least of any in Australia. Perhaps, for some inexplicable reason, a move affects a stallion for good or bad.

Demosthenes, sire of first-class horses in New Zealand, was a comparative failure when bought for Kia-Ora by the late Percy Miller. Chatham, on the other hand, sired few good horses until he went to South Australia; Spearfelt knocked about a stud or two unsuccessfully until bought cheaply by Jennings, of Queensland; Salmagundi, only a moderate success in N.S.W., became an outstanding sire in New Zealand.

Valais did not live long at Widden. He died in 1927 and to-day a headstone marks the memory of this great stallion. For what he did for racing in Australia, he deserves more.

It would be an idea if the A.J.C. or the V.R.C. named a race after Valais. Not just any race, but a big race. One which will hold its place of importance at Randwick or Flemington as long as the Valais blood still maintains its influence in this country. And that will be a very, very long time.

OVERSEAS SPORTS SPOTLIGHT

Is There a Horse on the Course?

On May 29, 1948, two horse players at Belmont, U.S.A., race track had words, and one of them drew a knife. That's the nearest thing there is to a true account of the origin of what is now called the Great Belmont Panic. At the track at the time, the flash disturbance was translated in a few seconds into a rumour that someone had run amok with a gun and from that, into the eerie final rumour that a horse was loose in the open spaces beneath the grandstand.

BETTERS stampeded in all directions. They ran from their seats, from their drinks, even from their places in ticket lines. Benches and chairs were overturned. Bumps, bruises, cuts and abrasions were suffered. A good half hour passed before the uninjured in the crowd of 20,000 were calm enough to go back to considering horses as numbers on the odds board and names in the form charts, and not as strange, living presences that might step on men's feet, breathe down men's necks or, for all that is known to the contrary, eat horse players with mustard, as horse players eat hot dogs.

This view of horses is a special one, of course. It's the one that's attributed to the mass horse-race audience of the 1940's and 1950's by old-timers, who look back wistfully to what they think were better, saner times in racing. Maybe the old-timers are unfair in suggesting that only a modern horse player could be terrified by the thought of meeting a 3-to-1 shot socially. After all, a horse in the grand stand, even a phantom horse, is a pretty unsettling idea. It carries the same sinister quality as the cry, "A lion is in the

streets!" But veteran horsemen beg you to believe that a thing like the Belmont Panic could not have occurred, for the reason it did occur, in the old days.

"It's this big, green crowd to-day, this horde of helots," said a vintage racing man who watched the panic. "They know nothing about horses. To them, a horse is Number Four on the board, second choice in the morning line. They don't know if he's a colt or a filly, a bay or a brown. They don't come out to see horses—they follow the race on the public-address system. So, naturally, if the word gets around that a horse has joined them, they become hysterical. He might as well be a rattlesnake."

By "this crowd to-day," old horsemen mean racing crowds since 1940, the year that divides past from present.

Only a handful of racing men have ever contended that regular visitors are attracted to a horse park by anything but the chance to gamble. The official view that many people go for the sport, the spectacle, the music of blood improving as it bubbles in ex-Arabian veins, was torpedoed last year by one of the

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IS THERE A HORSE?

game's most respected statesmen. In a round-table discussion among racing leaders, George D. Widener, president of the Westchester Racing Association, was suddenly faced with the question, "Will televised racing hurt track attendance?" Possibly Widener's answer was more spontaneous and unconsidered than he would have liked it to be, but, stoutly, he left it on the record. No, he said it won't—"because people go to the races primarily to bet."

The truth now being granted on all sides, these questions remain: Do the vast new boom-time racing crowds bet, think and behave differently from pre-1940 race-goers? Are they less horse-wise than the old-time crowd, as alleged? What is the special appeal that the horse gamble has for them, as opposed to the normal gambling of social bets and card games? When

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you get right down to it, just who are the new players, and where do they come from? These last points have fascinated racing students for a dozen years—but not as yet to the extent of stimulating them to poll the crowds, or to trail individual players home with a bloodhound and a notebook.

One of the most thoughtful students of horseplaying life known to your correspondent is John K., himself a post-1940 player and something of a mystery to those who have seen him around Eastern tracks. K. is a bachelor, a modestly paid Wall Street runner by trade. Two years ago, work being slack and his savings adequate for the plan, he retired temporarily from business and spent one full New York season at the track, April to November, without missing a day of racing. Some results of Operation K. will be given later, with the story of how K. became a horse player.

As a daily visitor, with a chance to study his peers, K. estimated that in the average weekday race crowd of 20,000 people, there was a hard core of 5,000 who turned up every day. He estimated further that about half of these 5,000 players were women. This fact—the fact that so many women bet every day, and bet every race—startled him, as it has startled nearly every other witness. It is one of the genuine hall-marks of the boom. Special statistics kept at a few tracks in the 1930's show that in the days before racing became a mass entertainment, the ratio of male to female customers averaged 5 to 1.

Only the wildest dreamers in

the mass audience are unaware that nobody wins consistently—that horse playing at best is a struggle to keep from going broke. Most of the players know, too, that the cut of 10 to 15 per cent. taken by state governments in the U.S.A. makes breaking even next to impossible in the long run.

But the betting boom of the last fourteen years is as real as nuclear fission, and its intensity is growing, not dwindling. In 1934, Americans bet 100,000,000 dollars at race tracks. That, of course, was a depression year. To take a less special year, the betting total in 1939 was 165,000,000 dollars. In 1940, the the amount—the mutuel handle, so-called—shot like a Roman candle to 408,500,000 dollars, and it has been rising ever since. In 1946, the first post-war year, it was 1,794,386,668 dollars. In 1953, it was 2,064,572,984 dollars.

These figures represent only flat-racing totals. Harness racing, on which half a billion dollars was bet last year, is a thing of the night at present, a separate manifestation.

In the late 1930's, yearly attendance at the running tracks rarely went much beyond 6,000,000. In 1953, the crowds totalled just a little more than 31,000,000. They came. They threw in their money. They saw it melted down—unpredictable horses and predictable state percentages made off with patches of the stuff, as, in the old song, the sunshine steals away the dew. Then they went home, to get more.

It's hard for even the bitterest critics to damn the mass horse-playing movement right down the line. The thing is too wide and deep. There is too

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much of nature in it. Denouncing these crowds is like denouncing high tide or coming out against perspiration.

Their manners vary with local conditions. Where most of the tracks are small and obsolete, as in New York, the crowd's mood is more savage than elsewhere. Trampling, downfield blocking and occupational wounds, such as stabbing by pencils or corset stays, are common in New York. In California, where the tracks are roomier, the mood is lighter and the pace easier. The average California player's rate of speed, in his charge to the ticket window, may be three miles per hour lower than the New York player's.

The claim that boomtime players bet foolishly and create false favourites has often been challenged by broader-minded horsemen as a mere guess based on prejudice. But there's a good deal of truth in it. In New York State for the last twenty years, statisticians have kept a record of the annual percentage of winning favourites—public choices which make good. The record shows that public judgment was noticeably better in the lean, less crowded, allegedly saner times before 1940. From 1934 through 1939, the over-all average of winning favourites was 40.2%—in one remarkably intelligent summer meeting at Aqueduct, it went to 52%, meaning that the fans' consensus was right more than half the time. From 1940 through 1953, the figure was 34.7%. Contributing

strongly to this wide difference is the fact that track bets in New York in the 1930's were handled by bookmakers, whose slower computing systems and personal opinions affected the odds somewhat, and served as a check on their customers' rashness. Under the mutuel system, which took hold in 1940, the public makes the odds unaided—and is free to go wrong with speed and finality.

"Form" in racing, based on past performance, weight, distance, and a few other factors, is an uncertain science, notoriously—but it's all there is. Most horse players resist form in one of two ways. One, they study it for hours, then throw it overboard in the course of a

thirty-second trip to a betting window. ("Did you ever stay all the way with a horse you picked in the morning?" a friend once asked Joe Frisco, the comedian, who was a devoted horse player. "Only if it came as a tip from a drug fiend," said Frisco.) Two, they ignore it altogether.

It's logical that to-day's boom audience, drawn from every walk of tense modern life, rushed and pressured by the force of its own numbers—"the sum of 31,000,000 trigger-fingers," these crowds have been called by Robert F. Kelley, curator of facts for several Eastern race tracks—should tend to be impatient with form. The selec-

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ELS. 32.8

IS THERE A HORSE —From Previous Page

tion systems that wreck form, on the other hand, have never been in such wholesale use.

For instance, betting on horses because of their jockeys. Of this pseudo-science, Eddie Arcaro, the most famous of present-day riders, has said, "A good jockey is a guy on a good horse," and, "Everything else being equal, which it never is, the best jockey is worth only part of a length." Boomtimes have made Arcaro extra-sensitive. It was after 1940 that the public developed the habit of serenading Eddie with catcalls at the wire whenever he came in late with a "stiff" horse that the fans had backed down to even money because he was riding it.

Experienced horsemen say that two points make it easy to distinguish between the expert, or "professional," better, and the amateur, mass-audience better—who may be just as chronic and dedicated a player as the expert.

The expert better doesn't always bet every race on the card, but plays "spots"—the two, three or four races a day which he has chosen as offering the most promising combination of a good horse and a good price. Also, he sticks to his selection, and is never touted off or influenced to change by the changing odds on the board.

The horse and the "fan" in racing move in totally separate orbits, without communion as individuals. It is this, as much as anything else, that irritates baseball owners and other competitors. The track hurts not only their business but their sense of propriety. Last February at Hialeah, in Florida, a two-horse race featuring the year's best known three-year-old, Turn-To, was inserted at the end of the programme—without betting. Before Turn-To could show his nose on the track, two-thirds of the crowd had gone home.

Like nature, the country's 31,000,000 horse players know

what they want to do, and do it. Besides, they have high precedents in their own circle. One of the best-informed, most honest and most experienced handicappers of race horses in America is Fred Keats. Recently, to check some facts, Keats went to a track early one morning for a breakfast interview on the terrace. As he was taking notes, a string of horses passed by a few yards from the table, headed for a workout. Keats stiffened. For a few moments he seemed tense and ill at ease.

"What's the matter, Fred?" another expert asked him.

"I've never seen a horse that close before," Keats said. Then he got a grip on himself. "Well," he went on, "as you were saying——."

OBITUARIES

JOHN S. AIRD

Elected 21/12/1942

Died 21/8/1954

W. J. BLYTH

Elected 23/10/1939

Died 16/9/1954



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Looking Back on Tattersall's Club

★ *October, 1933*

BY October, 1933, the recently-completed arrangements with our affiliated Clubs in the States were starting to show benefits. Sir Benjamin Fuller, recently back from a world tour, had availed himself of the reciprocal arrangements with the Los Angeles Athletic and the New York Athletic — and was enthusiastic in praise of the facilities each offered to members. He was the first of a long series of members, whose remarks on the advantages of these homes-away-from-home appeared in the Magazine through the years.

OCTOBER 1933 marked the tenth anniversary of Tom Manning's secretaryship. Members tendered him a dinner to celebrate — one of the first "private" dinners arranged after the newly-completed alterations to the fourth floor. It was, apparently, a highly successful evening — almost everybody made a speech, including the Commissioner of Police, Mr. Childs; organisers were Messrs. C. M. McDonald and Frank Carberry.

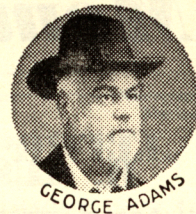
NINETEEN THIRTY-THREE had been a great season for the Club's sporting activities. This was the first year that Handball really got going in the Club; rules were standardised, competition for the Williams Cup, donated by Mr. G. S.

Williams, stimulated interest among a wide circle of third-floor habitués. The second competition for the Cup was completed in October 1933, with a newcomer to Handball — Zaide Lazarus — the unexpected winner. Sam Block, for the second time, was runner-up.

SWIMMING too, was under way again in October 1933. Dave Hunter took the first month's point-score for the Dewar Cup, with Cedric Turner close behind. Swimmers were training hard for the projected Carnival against Balmoral Club, down for November 27th.

HIGHLIGHT of October, 1933, was probably the Club Billiards Championship. Four starters saddled up for the event — George Watson, Hans Robertson, Arthur Miller and Charlie Young. Hans Robertson just headed Arthur Miller in the final by 500 to 474 in a game that was excitingly close all the way.

THE Interclub Competition for the year was also coming to finality. After sharing the lead with Masonic for months, we dropped back to third place when City Tattersall's joined Masonic in first place. At the end of October, the two had 28 points each against our 26, and it looked as though there would be a play-off for the honours.



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OCTOBER

*Australian Jockey Club Sat. 2

*Australian Jockey Club Mon. 4

*Australian Jockey Club Wed. 6

*Australian Jockey Club Sat. 9

*(Spring Meeting)

Sydney Turf Club Wed. 13

City Tattersall's (Randwick) Sat. 16

Sydney Turf Club (Canterbury) Sat. 23

Australian Jockey Club Sat. 30

NOVEMBER

Sydney Turf Club (Canterbury) Sat. 6

NOVEMBER (Continued)

A.J.C. (Warwick Farm) Sat. 13

Sydney Turf Club Wed. 17

A.J.C. (Warwick Farm) Sat. 20

Australian Jockey Club Sat. 27

DECEMBER

Sydney Turf Club (Rosehill) Sat. 4

Sydney Turf Club (Rosehill) Sat. 11

*Australian Jockey Club Sat. 18

Sydney Turf Club Wed. 22

*Australian Jockey Club Mon. 27

*(Summer Meeting)

Belbeiy's

HARDENED racegoers gasped when they saw the polished ease with which Belbeiy's won the First Novice Handicap at the Club's race meeting on 11th September.

Obviously on the bit as the field approached the turn, Belbeiy's kicked away when the field straightened up and won by six lengths, running the mile in 1m. 36½s.

The performance was reminiscent of, but better than, Belbeiy's first effort, when he won at Warwick Farm as a two-year-old after running greenly throughout.

Belbeiy's was bred by Mrs. R. L. Israel, wife of Mr. L. B. Israel, master of Segenhoe Stud, Seone.

He was by Nilo (imp.), senior sire at the stud, and a horse who, this year, has done extremely well, confirming the promise he gave a couple of seasons ago.

Bred by Alan Cooper, Red Wendy was at Segenhoe Stud when Mr. Israel took over the establishment, and her first foal Marine Victory, was an early winner.

But he would not keep his mind on racing and after contesting an A.J.C. Derby he was gelded, ultimately returning to win welter events.

He and Belbeiy's, a more polished galloper, are members of a very old Australian family.

By dual Melbourne Cup win-

ner, Peter Pan, Red Wendy was from Literature, who was bred by the late Sir Colin Stephen.

Wolverine produced Literature in 1930, and three years later her filly foal was Fidelity, who became an outstanding galloper, trained by the late Bayly Payten.

Still owned by members of the Stephen family, Fidelity herself produced winners.

Wolverine was by Woorak from Vole, a daughter of Petrillo (imp.) from Elvo, who entered the possession of the then Mr. Colin Stephen in the early part of the century.

Elvo, foaled in 1900, was by Malvolio from Treason, a mare foaled in 1892.

Treason was by Trenton, son of Musket (imp.) from Sedition, who was by Neckersgat from Irish Queen, daughter of Irish King and Sylph, by Impudence.

As a gelding, Belbeiy's (his name is pronounced Belbaize) is debarred from the classic races, but his galloping ability suggests him as an ideal Doncaster proposition for next year.

His sire, Nilo, made his mark with his first crop of foals, and there is ample evidence of his ability to impart his best qualities to his progeny.

One of those qualities is ability to run on, and he seems to have found an ideal mate in Red Wendy, with her strong blood.

CHELMSFORD STAKES

From Page 11

Native Dancer is next on the list. He would have added greatly to his total but a recurrence of a former hoof injury brought about his retirement before it was intended. He might have topped the world's figures had he remained sound.

Colossal figures mentioned make Australian winnings by our best horses look so much chicken-feed, but America is the home of big stakes with practically every day racing.

Turning to England Her Majesty The Queen's champion Aureole has won upwards of £40,000, the highest stakemoney winner to have carried the royal colours. His success in the King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Stakes in July netted Her Majesty £23,300, which makes the Melbourne and Sydney Cup's appear small affairs.

When he is retired, Aureole should prove an acquisition to the Royal Stud where he was bred, and to the British bloodstock industry as a whole. He probably is Hyperion's best son. By the way Hyperion was 20 years' old when he sired Aureole. That seems interesting.

And for the benefit of members who might not have read Roger Mortimer's reference to the Queen's win in this important race, the noted English sports-writer had this to say: Racing has always had its dark corners, but it has no better recommendation than the Royal patronage that has now become traditional. The Queen's genuine love of the sport is a welcome reminder that racing can be a pleasure and a pastime, and not merely, as some owners imagine, just another means of making money.

Her Majesty enjoyed racing in this country.

CHARLES KINSELA

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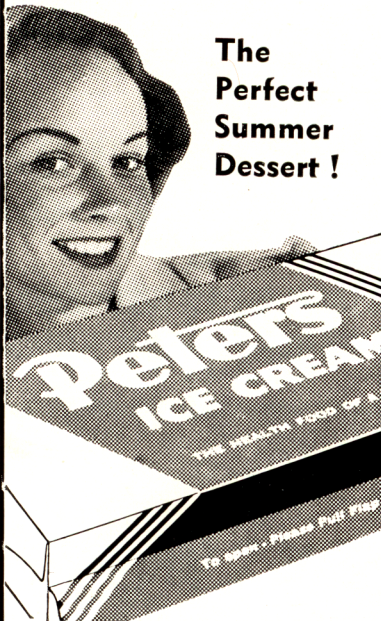
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